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News

Classifieds

Community

Directory

Marketplace

My Zwire!

Home -> News -> Content

Thursday 20 June, 2002



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[Advanced search](#)

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Patrolling JobbieNooner challenges police teams

By Amanda Lee, Macomb Daily Staff Writer

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Macomb Daily photo by David Dalton

St. Clair County Sheriff's Department Lt. William J. Krul chats with boater Harry Romolino of Mount Clemens at Gull Island on Wednesday. The island, quiet at midweek, is expected to be the rendezvous for thousands of boaters attending the JobbieNooner event on Friday.

Police agencies from St. Clair and Macomb counties are working together this weekend to combat what they expect to be a very busy weekend.

With the official first day of summer Friday, temperatures expected to soar into the high 80s and the infamous JobbieNooner party on Gull Island, police expect the water to be packed. Officers, however, worry that not everyone will be on their best behavior.

"We've cleared out extra space in the jail (for this weekend)," joked Macomb County Sheriff Mark Hackel at a Wednesday news conference.



News
Top Stories
Local News
Sports
Business
Entertainment
Editorial Page
Obituaries
Election Center
Health
Home & Life
Outdoors & Boating
Taste
CommunityCalendar
Weather
Wire Services
National News
► Employment Opportunities
► Classified Ads
► Newspaper in Education
► Business Directory
► Contact Us

▶ Sports Wire!
▶ Fun and Games
▶ Personal Finance
▶ Consumer Guide

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- Michigan Lottery
- Lake Levels - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



Officers with the Macomb County Sheriff's Department, St. Clair County Sheriff's Department, U.S. Coast Guard and St. Clair Shores Police Department expect to patrol the waters for drunken boaters most of the weekend.

The annual JobbieNooner party will be held at Gull Island, just off Harsens Island, in Clay Township on Friday. The party, which grows larger every year, has become famous for topless sunbathers and alcohol consumption over the years.

Lt. William J. Krul, of the St. Clair County Sheriff's Department, said the group that promotes the party has been very active in advertising lately, which could cause problems for law enforcement.

"They get between 6,000 and 7,000 people on that island," he said. "It gets so thick we can't even get boats through. If we have to get on the island for a medical emergency, it could take 20 minutes just to get boats out of the way so we can get up there."

Hackel said police officers aren't trying to ruin the fun of partygoers, but want to promote responsible drinking.

"We don't want anyone to get hurt," he said.

Krul said officers will be patrolling close to the island most of the day Friday to make sure everything remains relatively calm on the island -- which because of higher water levels has lost a great deal of beach this year.

"We're probably talking more people in a smaller space," he said.

Police will also be watching for drunken boaters both on the water and when they return to land. If a boater is deemed to be drunk, the boat can either be turned over to another person on the craft to be driven home or be towed by an independent salvage company.

"I'm not sure how much it is, but it's expensive and the boater himself has to pay for it to get it out of the impound lot," Krul said.


For the most part, officials are urging boaters to have fun but keep their wits about them.

"We just don't want things to get dangerous for anyone out there," Krul said.

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[Back to top](#) 



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